

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 11 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th March 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramjibī"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	Māgh 1284 B.S.
2	"Rajshahye Sambād"	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	"Grāmbartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhowanipore ...	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Culna Prakāsh"	Culna ...	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawabgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
8	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhowanipore ...	.....
9	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāligunj, Calcutta ...	.....	6th March 1878.
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing ...	658	7th ditto.
11	"Bhārat Sangskārak"	Calcutta ...	.....	4th ditto.
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....
13	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	10th ditto.
14	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	8th ditto.
15	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	8th ditto.
16	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	235	
17	"Grāmbartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	9th ditto.
18	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Calcutta ...	.....
19	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto ...	5,500	9th ditto.
20	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah ...	516	3rd ditto.
21	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	300	9th ditto.
22	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhowanipore ...	700	11th ditto.
23	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	.....	4th ditto.
24	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	.....	6th ditto.
25	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rungpore ...	250	
26	"Burdwan Prachārikā"	Burdwan ...	165	
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
27	"Banga Mittra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
28	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Ditto ...	550	4th to 9th March 1878.
29	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	9th to 15th ditto.
30	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	.....	4th and 11th ditto.
31	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	625	7th to 13th ditto.
32	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
33	"Amrita Bazar Patrikā"	Ditto ...	2,217	
34	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	3rd March 1878.
35	"Moorshedabad Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....	1st ditto.
36	"Burrisal Bārtābaha"	Burrisal ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
37	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	9th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
38	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mozufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	13th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
40	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Calcutta ...	250	8th ditto.

POLITICAL.

SADHARANI,
March 8rd, 1878.

WE make the following extracts from an article in the *Sádháraní*, of the 3rd March, headed the "Native Newspapers,"

The Native Press.

in which the writer comments on a paper, recently contributed to the *Calcutta Review* by Mr. William Digby of Madras. In defending the Vernacular Press against the attacks so constantly made upon it by English writers of the Pioneer school, the reviewer takes occasion to point out that a free newspaper press, representing the wants and grievances, feelings and views of the people to the rulers, is not certainly a new thing in this country. Far from being novelties, and their introduction into India resembling an attempt to pour new wine into old bottles, such institutions as a free press and municipalities are but the modern representatives of the reporters and spies employed under the old Hindu kings and village punchayets, which have obtained among the people from time immemorial. The newspapers are now the mouth-piece of the public. In olden times, the people of India freely expressed their views on all subjects, without any fear of the rulers. Their opinions were not indeed expressed through the medium of newspapers; but there were regularly salaried officers whose duty it was to keep the governing body duly acquainted with them. The Sovereign, too, would never order those who gave expression to their own sentiments to be put to the guillotine; and thus render them powerless for mischief. The rulers in those days appreciated, as now, the value of public opinion, and shaped their policy and actions accordingly. What is a free press if not this? The actions of Ram, Krishna, Dushmanta, and other famous Hindu kings, chronicled in the Purans, always proceeded from a sincere respect for public opinion, which was sometimes carried so far as to entail a considerable degree of self-sacrifice. The famous and powerful King Vikramáditya used often to wander about in disguise in different parts of his kingdom, in order to learn what the people thought of his public acts; and he did not rely solely for information on the Robinsons of those days. There is, of course, a great difference observable between the state of things in the olden times, and as they are now. But the rulers have gained rather than lost by the change. Then a spy was needed for every town and village; now it is one Mr. Robinson who does it all. The Sovereign himself had sometimes to disguise himself as a fakir and wander about, and even to play the eavesdropper, in order that he might acquaint himself with the feelings of the people towards the State. Now, with considerable labour to ourselves, we embody our opinions in printed newspapers, and take the trouble of sending them by post to the authorities. To them the present system therefore has been a decided advantage. If you do not want to avail yourselves of this, you may deprive the newspaper press of its liberty; but do not be afraid that the continuance of the privilege will bring about any such result as is experienced when hot water is poured into an old vessel. Nor need you hold out any such fear. The vessel is indeed old; but it has long been inured to this degree of heat.

SADHARANI.

2. Adverting to the subject of the future of India, referred to in the latter part of Mr. Digby's article, the same paper is gratified to notice that the sentiments

The future of India.

of the reviewer are quite in unison with his own; and agrees with him in thinking that, in many important political matters, the probable tendency in India will be to adopt American institutions rather than those which obtain in England. This is instanced by a reference to the questions of the possession of land and the voice of the people in the administration of their country. As to the first, while Government has introduced a permanent

settlement of land into Bengal with a view to facilitate the collection of revenue and create a landed aristocracy like that in England, the spread of education has enabled the people to understand their rights, and led them to seek to acquire a permanent interest in the land, which the zemindars, on their part, are as anxious to prevent. The tenantry are opposed to the zemindary system under which all land is allowed to fall into the possession of a few persons, and the actual cultivators prevented from acquiring any abiding interest in it; and they are therefore in favour of the practice obtaining in the United States of America, where the small proprietors make direct settlements with the State. Regarding the second point, the Editor shares the opinion of Mr. Digby as expressed in his article in the *Calcutta Review*.

3. The following is taken from the opening editorial of the *Sahachar*, of the 4th March, headed "Will England fight?" England will not fight with Russia at this time; and this is chiefly because she has no longer the strength and valour she formerly possessed. The history of all the commercial nations, that have appeared in this world since the days of Tyre, tells us that they remain in power only so long as the services of mercenary troops are procurable, and that they are found wanting in strength as soon as they are required to fight their own battles. As long as Hanover was under the English Crown, England could obtain as large a number of German recruits as she pleased. That way has, however, been now barred. England is therefore without an ally. Not to speak of Russia, under the circumstances, she is not able to fight even with Spain. She has, however, enough of bluster. When the present war began, it was said that she would take an active part in it, if only certain limits were exceeded. Russia has now exceeded all of them, till at last even Egypt is in a fair way to pass into her hands. It seems to be considered by British politicians that Russia will be terrified by her present warlike demonstrations. But that Power understands her well. Our readers may rest assured that England will not fight. The English nation have lost their former power and courage. There might have been some parade of her valour if it had been a war with the Abyssinians, Ashantees, or the Looshais. But where is the army with which England would fight with Russia? Where are the Generals? Will Lord Napier and Sir Garnet Wolsley fight with Gourko, Schouveloff and Radetskey? Certainly, not in this age. Wealth has proved the ruin of England; and she is not now in a position to fight with any first-class European power.

SAHACHAR,
March 4th, 1878.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

4. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 3rd March, headed "The Government of India and the East Indian Railway." This line has proved a highly profitable undertaking. The arrangements made by the Company for the transport of goods and the convenience of travellers, although not perfectly free from fault, are, nevertheless, neither unsatisfactory nor blameable. The public would have nothing more to say, if only the convenience of the third-class passengers were a little more consulted, and increasing facilities offered for the transmission of goods from all the stations. We, however, do not at present mean to consider this subject; and it is our purpose, in this article, only to refer to the question of the expediency of Government taking over the management of the line. We believe it

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
March 3rd, 1878.

The purchase of the East Indian
Railway by Government.

advisable for two reasons—(1) Government having guaranteed to the Company an interest of five per cent. on the capital embarked, it would have been obliged to take over the management into its own hands, if the line, like the Nulhati Branch Railway, had proved a losing concern. A few other lines have actually been, for this reason, placed under State management. Now, since the State is under the necessity of taking over such lines as do not pay, should it not also take the one that is returning a profit? Certainly, it should. (2) Again, should facilities of communication by water be promoted in those places where, for want of them, the Company is now enabled to obtain a large goods traffic; the diminution in these profits that is likely to be occasioned will lead the shareholders to make it over to Government, which also must accept the liability. If this railway line passes into the hands of Government, there will be a great reduction of expenditure, and considerable profit will accrue to the State.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
March 3rd, 1878.

5. The same paper is gratified to notice that in the course of the debates on the License Tax Bill, in the Bengal Council, the non-official members, among whom prominent mention should be made of the Hon'ble

The Native members of the
Bengal Council and Mr. Eden.

Kristo Das Pal, gave expression to their independent views on the measure; and although they were defeated, still such defeat is more glorious than a victory. The appointment of Baboo Mohini Mohun Roy and Raja Pramathanath Roy to the Bengal Council has been an act of the greatest wisdom. Mr. Eden seldom errs in his choice of men. In spite of his other faults, he is singularly happy in this respect. His recent acts, however, have not increased our esteem for him. We had once thought that natives would receive very affectionate treatment at his hands; but it is now found that his disposition has changed. He is exceedingly obedient to the Supreme Government; and, as such, nothing truly beneficial can be expected from him.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
March 4th, 1878.

6. We take the following from an article in the *Bhārat Sangskarak*, of the 4th March, entitled "Sir George Campbell and the salt duties." No one needs to be told of the constant exertions put forth by Sir George Campbell, while Lieutenant-Governor of these provinces, to benefit the people. Even now, although away from this country, he has not forgotten them. We are exceedingly gratified to find repeated proofs of the sincere interest and affection which he cherishes towards the people of India. The other day he spoke much in favour of the poor in connection with the License Tax Bill. The Editor thus concludes the article:—The system of taxation adopted by Government presses heavily upon the poor. It is they, who will be sucked dry by means of the Public Works Cess; the Irrigation Cess will be directly levied from them; and the imposition of the License Tax will subject the petty traders and artisans to greater hardship than the wealthier classes. Again, the increased salt duty will act in the same direction. Government, it seems, desires to make a profit in both ways—namely, by means of direct as well as indirect taxation. If reduction of expenditure will afford the means of relieving the people of even one tax, why is not this attempted? The rulers are constantly found saying that the utmost reduction has been made, and further is impossible. But it is idle to argue with a person who, though awake, seems asleep. Government appears to be alarmed at any proposal which may be made to curtail the expenditure on the Army, the Public Works Department, or that incurred in paying the high salaries of its European officers. Even the discontinuance of the unnecessary and unjust charge on account of a State Church in India might effect a

considerable amount of saving. Might not this be done in lieu of an increase of the salt duties?

7. Adverting to a rumour that Government intends to appoint the Rajah of Bijni to the Indian Civil Service, the *Sahachar*, of the 4th March, makes the following observations: The proposed appointment, coming after the recent one of the younger brother of the Maharajah of Durbhunga, has led the people to question the wisdom of both acts. The whole thing appears to be incomprehensible. Are these appointments made with a view ultimately to find an excuse for excluding the natives from the Civil Service, on the ground that, the uneducated scions of the native aristocracy having failed, others can scarcely be expected to prove their fitness?

The appointment of the Rajah of Bijni to the Native Civil Service.

SAHACHAR,
March 4th, 1878.

8. Writing on the subject of a Famine Commission, the *Bishwa Dūt*, of the 6th March, feels that he is unable to express his gladness at the news. Not that he fears the members will be incompetent, or fail to discover the true cause of the recurrence of famines and suggest the remedy, but because it is next to impossible that their suggestions will be acted upon. The true cause of this calamity is the extreme poverty of the country; and if this has to be removed, England must be prepared for a large amount of self-sacrifice. We do not believe that she is ready to bear this; and hence our regret at the appointment of a Famine Commission.

A Famine Commission.

BISHWA DUT,
March 6th, 1878.

9. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 7th March, makes the following observations in an editorial, headed "Why are we so ambitious for high appointments?" In our last issue, we showed that it was not merely for the purpose of earning a livelihood. We can quite understand, without the need of any explanation, that even if all the appointments in the public service were thrown open to them, a fourth part of the entire number of educated natives could not be provided for. Our object in pressing our claim is at once nobler, grander, and more important than this. Appointments, the duties of which involving responsibility, and affording scope for learning habits of business, and the exercise of independent administrative talents, are not coveted by us solely for the emoluments attached to them. We desire them simply because they impart such training to natives as may gradually prepare them to take a part in the administration of their country. That the time has not yet come, when natives could be safely trusted with the functions of a District Magistrate and Collector, is believed not only by Europeans, but by many among ourselves. For our part, however, we have never believed, nor shall we ever believe, that natives do not possess the courage, firmness, and determination which characterize Europeans; or that, although they may make competent judicial officers, they have not yet become fit to wield magisterial powers. Should we be called away from earth, without being permitted to see a Native Magistrate-Collector, we shall regret to our dying day that, not being able to overcome its partiality for Europeans, Government has failed to treat us with just consideration; and that it has not afforded us one facility whereby we might be enabled even occasionally to administer the affairs of our native land. We can never understand how it is that not even five persons in this country are not found able to discharge the duties of a Magistrate. It may be asked why we are so sorry to notice the appointment to sub-divisions of civilians whose numbers are gradually increasing. Government and the European community must have been greatly mistaken, if they ever thought that this feeling was an outcome of selfish considerations or jealousy of civilians. We are a little sensitive in this matter, because, excluded from

The reason why natives desire high appointments in the public service.

BHARAT MIHIR,
March 7th, 1878.

all superior executive or political appointments, sub-divisions afford the only field where natives may learn the work of administration. Any encroachment on this sphere by civilians is therefore justly regarded with a feeling of uneasiness.

BEHARAT MINIR.
March 7th, 1878.

10. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Comillah, dwells in eulogistic terms on Messrs. Stevens and Jones, the newly appointed Judge and Magistrate, respectively, of the district. They have become exceedingly popular for their ability, courtesy, and impartial administration of justice.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
March 9th, 1878.

11. Adverting to the meetings, held both in Bombay and Calcutta, to protest against the provisions of the new License Tax Acts, the *Grámbártá Prákáshiká*, of the 9th March, offers the following remarks. We now find that almost all classes of the people are protesting against the imposition of this tax, and expressing their dissatisfaction with it. But Government does not heed their complaints. Many are of opinion that, of late, the rulers have been much accustomed to act in defiance of public opinion. Is this true? and do the circumstances that have occurred recently offer instances of this disposition? What an untoward course times have taken! Public opinion, a regard for which hitherto constituted the life, soul, and the pride of the British Government, is in process of time, and owing to our ill-luck, persistently trampled under foot; and the authorities seem determined to do by force those things which are precisely calculated to produce discontent. The only consequence of this has been to give natives an impression that they are in the estimation of Government more contemptible even than grass. Why else is this persistent ignoring of their opinions? But does it behove an equitable English Government thus to wound the feelings of the people who are subject to its sway?

HINDU HITASHINI,
March 9th, 1878.

12. Referring to the proposed appointment of the Rajah of Bijni to the Native Civil Service, the *Hindu Hitashini*, of the 9th March, makes the same observations as those noticed in paragraph 7 from the *Sahachar*.

HINDU HITASHINI.

13. The same paper hears with regret that Mr. Weathrall, the District Superintendent of Police, Dacca, has been asked to retire from the service on his pension. The reason of this order is not known. It is really hard that this meritorious public officer, whose ability and courtesy have endeared him to the inhabitants, as well as to his subordinates in office, should apparently, for no fault, be subjected to loss, which retirement from the service, so soon after he has got a lift in it, will mean, in his case.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
March 9th, 1878.

14. The *Sambád Prabhákar*, of the 9th March, prefaces an account of the Lokenathpore case with the following remarks:—We have repeatedly observed that the European officers in the mofussil exercise more authority than even the Lieutenant-Governor or the Viceroy. The inhabitants of villages, who have occasion daily to observe their acts, are alone able to tell what truth there is in our statement. It is needless to point out that Government has acted very wrongly in vesting District Magistrates with almost boundless powers; and that injurious consequences constantly result to the country and the people, from the fact that not a few worthies, belonging to the firm of Messrs. Kirkwood and Company, exercise them. The fearful oppression and tyranny perpetrated by Mr. Kirkwood in the Fennuah cases, which cast a blot on the justice of the British nation, have now found a parallel in the strange vagaries of three European officers in the Nuddea district. A perusal of the account of the Lokenathpore case will show that the flame

kindled by Mr. Kirkwood, and fanned by the acts of Messrs. D'Oyly, Damant, Clay, and others, has not yet been extinguished. It is a slow consuming fire. We had known Mr. Stevens as a friend of the natives, but the present case altogether shows a different spectacle.

15. An anonymous correspondent, signing himself a poor Mussulman, writes to the *Urdu Guide* from *Behár*, under date the 6th March, anent the court vacations,

URDU GUIDE,
March 9th, 1878.

The Muhammadan holidays. and prays the Editor to draw the attention of the English Government to the subject of his letter, which is as follows: As the matter regarding the holidays is under consideration, and it is expected that a decision will soon be passed on it, he trusts that the forlorn and distressed state of the Mussulman officials of the court in this matter may be redressed; for at present no heed is paid to them, and they are thereby lowered in the esteem of their Hindu fellow-subjects. In the first place, the holidays allowed the latter are a hundred times more than those granted to the Muhammadans; moreover, the number of days allowed for the *Eed* and *Baqreed* are insufficient, there being not time properly to attend to the offerings and prayers for deceased ancestors. Doubtless this difference in the allotment of vacations is to be attributed to the paucity of Mussulmans in official employ; but, now that they are to be found in all courts in Bengal and Behár, and equal the Hindus in number, this distinction should cease, and the list of holidays drawn up by the Board and Government should be amended. The Christian holidays are enjoyed alike by Hindus and Mussulmans, but those granted to this last class separately by the Board are comparatively few; and at the same time, not being published in the Calcutta Government Gazette, very few of the mofussil authorities attend to them. It is to be hoped that those engaged in revising the list of holidays will attend to the subject of this letter.

16. We extract the following observations from the opening editorial of the *Soma Prakash*, of the 11th March, headed "The Lokenathpore Case and a Model Magistrate." Let our readers seek for the

SOMA PRAKASH,
March 11th, 1878.

Reflections on the Lokenathpore case.

moment to forget the cases of injustice which have been occasionally committed by Magistrates and Joint-Magistrates in the mofussil, and direct their attention to a case which recently occurred in Mr. Glascott's indigo factory at Lokenathpore, to the just (?) decision passed by the Joint-Magistrate, Mr. Skrine, the impartial consideration (?) it has received at the hands of Mr. Stevens, the District Magistrate, and last of all to the facts elicited by the appeal to Mr. Lawford, the Judge of Nuddea; and they will see how the authorities in the mofussil dispense justice and perform their other administrative duties! These officers may personally have no religion, and may think themselves at liberty to act arbitrarily; but who is responsible for the moral consequences of their acts, or who is to be blamed for them? Is not the burden of guilt and reproach thrown on the shoulders of the Indian Government, the British Government, and even the British nation? The authorities consider the Magistrates and other officers as above sin, and devoid of passion or prejudice; and do not use efficient means for the exercise of control over their actions. This great fault of Government has become the parent of much evil, which was vastly increased when Sir George Campbell, who regarded these officers as infallible and free from all passion or prejudice, enhanced their authority, and vested them with powers of summary trial.

If in support of any political question we cite Menu, the great Hindu legislator, possibly Government might reply that, having flourished in barbarous times, he is not to be regarded as an authority in such matters, although,

in point of wisdom, he far surpassed many of the most enlightened Governments of the present day. According to him, it is the duty of the Sovereign to protect the subject from the acts of public officers, who are generally noted for their insincerity, dishonesty, and habits of cheating. Is not this old saying of Menu verified at the present day? Are there wanting public officers of this stamp in the mofussil? These possess another fault, namely, that of abetting the wicked oppressions of dishonest Europeans in the interior of the country. There is no limit to the extent of injustice that is daily committed there. Is it all brought to public notice? The little that is, is entirely due to the gradual spread of English education. The natives have now come to know that redress may be obtained at the hands of Government by giving publicity to those cases of oppression; and they have also at the present time acquired the ability requisite for this purpose. It is for this reason that the English education of natives has become an eyesore to those authorities who are given to habits of oppression. For this, too, they avail themselves of every opportunity of decrying high English education among the people, and thus seek to alienate the hearts of Government from the subjects. Not to speak of others, even Colonel Chesney, an authority deservedly of high repute, has heaped abuse upon the educated natives in the columns of the *Nineteenth Century*, with the view of making them objects of disfavour with Government. The burden of complaint among this class of writers is, that the educated natives are disloyal; and that, failing to obtain situations in the public service, they take to editing newspapers hostile to the interests of Government. But in spite of all that may be said by oppressive Europeans in furtherance of their self-interests, Government is not certainly so wanting in justice, as, out of deference to their views, to keep the natives for ever steeped in ignorance, or cast them, bound hand and foot, into the jaws of tigers and bears which prowl about in the mofussil. Shall we be held disloyal for seeking to prevent oppressions? Are we disloyal, or those who gag our mouths and seek to oppress us, and thus bring a load of guilt upon Government? We sincerely regret that there is one thing which the rulers do not affect to see, although it is patent to them. It is that human nature desires and seeks to exercise the authority it may possess, independently of any control or check. The Padishah of Delhi sent out a Nawab to govern Bengal. The latter on his arrival in the province himself affected the Padishah, and seemed to forget that he had a superior. The amlah of a zemindar in the mofussil exercises the powers of a Subadar. It is generally observed that Europeans, while in India, become excessively fond of irresponsible power; and there are reasons why this should be so. First, they are proud of belonging to the race of conquerors; and there is none to oppose them here. Secondly, the authorities placing greater credence on the words of the oppressor than on those of the injured, there is but little obtained by way of redress. It is equally a matter of wonder and regret that Government affects not to see this. The Editor concludes the article with the following observations: We await with interest the procedure which may be adopted, and the opinion which may be expressed, in connection with this case by our impartial Lieutenant-Governor. Messrs. Stevens and Skrine have become, as it were, the touch-stone for the purpose of testing the justice of Mr. Eden.

SOMA PRAKASH,
March 11th, 1878.

17. The same paper makes the following remarks in reference to the License Tax and the Treasure Trove Acts. Regarding the first, it is observed that the love and consideration which Mr. Eden cherishes for Bengal, and the respect he feels for the opinion of the people, have all been clearly shown by his conduct in connection with this measure.

The License Tax and the Treasure Trove Acts.

While the inhabitants of Calcutta and neighbouring places are holding meetings, and making an agitation for the purpose of protesting against it, Mr. Eden has quietly had the Bill passed. Regarding the provisions of the Treasure Trove Act, the Editor confesses himself unable to understand why the notification by the Collector, when a treasure trove has been discovered, is to be published only once, instead of three times, which is usually the practice in such cases.

18. Adverting to the publication of a Life of Mr. Eden, by Baboo Kali Prasanna Dey, the same paper writes as follows:—Mr. Eden has long been in this

Mr. Eden.

country, and knows a great deal about the manners, customs, and feelings of the Bengalees; so that it would not be unreasonable to expect him to be a friend of the people. But the few public acts performed by him, ever since his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship, have, on the contrary, clearly given proofs of a hostile feeling. In imposing a new tax, even the Government of India is long found to hesitate and deliberate; but Mr. Eden, the friend of Bengal, never troubles himself in this way. Action follows proposal without delay. The fact is, he understands the native disposition, and knows perfectly well that whatever he may do will stand, and that the Bengalees will accept it with only an occasional and feeble protest. The zemindars, who formerly used almost to adore him, have received the foremost consideration at his hands by the imposition of the Public Works Cess. This act of sympathy has been supplemented by another. Their desire to see natives appointed to the Civil Service, without having been subjected to any examination, has been gratified by the appointment to it of a minor. This will afford, a few days hence, an admirable pretext for showing the unfitness of natives for superior offices under Government. The appointment of natives to Judgeships and Magistracies will be made as it has been ever before. We cannot, however, blame Mr. Eden for this. All his ability and promptitude have been used up in imposing the Public Works Cess and the License Tax. Some interval of time must elapse to allow him to recruit his energy for the purpose of doing something for the appointment of natives to Judgeships. It must not be supposed, from what we have said above, that we have forgotten the good he did to the people during the occurrence of the indigo riots. In spite of his acknowledged abilities, however, he does not appear to be a man of uncommon talents, possessed of a high order of mental greatness or inventive power.

SOMA PRAKASH,
March 11th, 1878.

19. In reviewing the Bengal Administration Report for 1876-77, the same paper remarks: That Government has

The Bengal Administration Report
for 1876-77 reviewed.

really begun to make a reduction of expenditure is evident from the size, the printing,

and the paper of this book which is, in all these respects, inferior to its predecessors. If retrenchments were effected in all other departments of the administration in a similar manner, there would neither be any lack of funds, nor necessity of fresh taxation. This policy, however, is not followed, whenever the conveniences of the rulers are concerned, or Europeans are to be entertained. A considerable amount of saving might be effected, if only the sojournings in the hills of Simla and Darjeeling were given up for at least three or four years. The compulsory retirement of civilians, in order to facilitate the promotion of the junior members of that body, will involve a double disadvantage; inasmuch as both those who may retire and the actual incumbents will have to be paid. Most things noted in the Report have gratified us. We are, however, sorry to notice that in Chittagong, in the year of the cyclone, no less than 286 landed estates were sold for arrears of revenue. Government ought to have been more lenient towards

SOMA PRAKASH.

those afflicted by the cyclone and the storm-wave. In other years, too, many landed estates are sold in Chittagong for this cause. The matter is one which should be enquired into. We are gratified to notice that Mr. Eden is greatly anxious to improve the condition of the tenantry by securing them permanent rights in the land. This should be the case not only in Behar, but throughout the Lower Provinces. A summary procedure for adjudicating rent disputes and the collection of rents, which Mr. Eden proposes to introduce, is however open to objection, on the ground that it is likely to be injurious by giving occasion for injustice.

EDUCATION.

SAHACHAR,
March 4th, 1878.

20. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th March, contains a long article on the Education Department. The writer dwells on the indifference with which the work of this department is viewed by Government, and the generally low salaries paid to the overworked native officers. The present Director Mr. Croft, however, has made a proposal to raise the status of these men; but God only knows when that will be sanctioned. In the meantime, merit is not rewarded; and jobbery prevails to an enormous extent. To illustrate his remarks, the Editor mentions the names of Baboo Cháru Chandra Chatterjea, Mati Lall Maitra, Kanti Chundra Bandyopadhyaya, Táarak Nath Sen, and Dwarka Nath Bandyopadhyaya, who, by their ability and long service, are entitled to promotion, yet who have been persistently passed over for years past.

SOMA PRAKASH,
March 11th, 1878.

21. A correspondent of the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 11th March, directs the attention of the authorities to the low salaries, allowed to the teachers in Government aided schools,—an overworked class of useful men, who have no prospect of increase or reward. A great deal may be done in this direction by (1) vesting the power of appointing them in the Inspectors, instead of, as now, in the Secretaries, who use it in most cases for their own advantage; (2) making their services pensionable; and (3) appointing them to the Deputy and Sub-Inspectorships.

LOCAL.

SADHARANI,
March 3rd, 1878.

22. A correspondent of the *Sádháraní*, of the 3rd March, writing from Meherpore in Nuddea, complains of the prevalence of prostitution and obscene practices, on the occasions of annual festivities celebrated in that place at the expense of the inhabitants. This is the more reprehensible on account of the fact that the pújá, dancing, and singing are all countenanced by the subdivisional officers, who take a leading part in collecting subscriptions. Great demoralization takes place among the peasantry in consequence. Mr. Skrine first introduced this annual *tamasha* into the place; and it is to be regretted that his successors, all civilians, have continued to follow the bad example thus set by him.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
March 3rd, 1878.

23. One writing to the *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 3rd March, hears with regret that the long talked-of project of a branch railway from Ranaghat to Bhugwangola, through Kishnaghur and Berhampore, of which the necessary surveys and maps had been prepared, has been abandoned by Government; and that a line from Ranaghat to Jessore is all that has been sanctioned. It is not easy to see why the inhabitants of the former localities have been deprived of this benefit. The project, if carried out, will be profitable to Government, while it will promote means of communication over a hundred miles of country, and thus give an impetus to trade.

24. A correspondent of the *Bhārat Sangakāra*, of the 4th March, notices the extreme poverty of the inhabitants in the district of Purneah, and the wretched condition of the municipality from a sanitary point of view. There has been a serious outbreak of fever in this place and its neighbourhood. The town reeks with filth and stench, and the stream below it is overrun with rank vegetation. The attention of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is directed to the miserable condition of the municipality. The poverty of the tenantry in this district is due to the indigo-planters, who used to take up the best lands for the cultivation of the plant.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
March 4th, 1878.

25. The Majilpore correspondent of the same paper is thankful to Government for having, during the recent outbreak of cholera in that place, sent efficient medical aid. The Doctor, Babu Bipinbehary Maitra, deserves promotion in the service, for the able manner in which he has discharged the duties entrusted to him.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

26. Another, writing to the same paper from Bogra, praises Babu Jagat Bandhu Ganguli, the present Moonsif of that place, for his ability and courtesy. The work of the office has been performed with great regularity since his arrival here.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

27. The Goalundo correspondent of the *Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā*, of the 9th March, writes as follows on the subject of labour emigration: This year an excessively large number of labourers has been sent to Assam, most of whom have come from Hazareebagh and Lohardugga. There is not sufficient accommodation found for them in Goalundo, where the depôts are overcrowded. We have heard that this is the case in Calcutta also. These labourers are extremely dirty, obstinate, and impatient of control. A study of their dispositions seems to show that they find great difficulty in earning a livelihood in their native villages. Government keeps a sharp eye on the observation coolies; but the cooly agents, the stewards of the emigration vessels, and the topasses, are notorious for their oppressions; of which, however, we purpose to write in our next letter. While inspecting a few cases of cholera among the labourers, we heard it said that a number of them were, for want of food, eating leaves and sand; and have with our own eyes seen some carefully gleaning a few grains of corn which had fallen on the road side. Again, a few beautiful females, and apparently belonging to respectable Hindu and Mahomedan families, have been somehow decoyed by the recruiters into this place for the purpose of emigration. Not being sirdar coolies, Government has no concern with them. They are now going about and singing in the bazar in order to earn something, and are separately lodged that the public may not have access to them.

GRAMBARTA
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March 9th, 1878.

MISCELLANEOUS.

28. In describing the chief traits of the native character, the *Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā*, of the 9th March, dwells on its unquestioned and intense loyalty to the governing power, whether the latter professes the same creed as the people or not. There is, however, a disposition, which constantly manifests itself, to take the Government to task for every natural calamity which may befall them, or any trouble which may have been occasioned by their own faults. As a matter of fact, however, the native character, and not Government, is responsible for much of the misery that prevails. Natives are singularly wanting in thoughtfulness, public spirit, and disinterested liberality. They seem to

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be blind to the advantages of trade, commerce, and manufacturing industries, which are calculated to remove the poverty of the country, and are only desirous to obtain empty titles of distinction. They seem to be insensible to the need of social reform and spread of education.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 16th March 1878.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.